Procurement of SU-27 fighter plane by Pakistan

428. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the Pakistan's bid to procure high performance SU-27 fighter planes from the Russian Federation;

(b) if so, how do Government think that the sale of the fighter planes to Pakistan will have an imbalance in the country's air striking power; and

(c) what is the reaction of Government with regard to the military assistance to Pakistan by Russian Federation at this critical juncture of the Indo-Pak relationship?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) Government have seen reports to the effect that Pakistan is interested in acquiring defence equipment, including aircraft, from Russia.

(b) Government are concerned about Pakistan's efforts to acquire sophisticated weapons and technology beyond its legitimate defence requirements. Government constantly monitor all developments having a bearing on national security and take necessary measures to safeguard it.

(c) Government have, on various occasions, conveyed to the Russian Government our concerns regarding the supply of any weapons to Pakistan. The Russian Government has stated that it was not supplying arms to Pakistan and would not do so in future.

Violation of code of conduct for diplomats

429. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has charged Pakistan with persistant violation of the Code of Conduct for diplomats and Consular Personnel;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Pakistan, in turn charged India with having vitiated the atmosphere between the two countries by aggressive surveillance and "intimidatory actions by Indian agencies, involving Pakistani diplomat;

(c) whether it is a fact that India listed 118 instances in which the two year old Code of Conduct had been breached: and

(d) if so, whether India seriously considering a proposal to dismantle diplomatic relations with Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Pakisan has from time to time been making false and motivated allegations of Indias non-compliance with the provisions of the Code of Conduct.

(c) Since the signing of the Code of Conduct for Treatment of Diplomatic/Consular Personnel in India and Pakistan on 19-08-1992, there have been 229 specific instances of harassment and intimidation of Indian diplomatic officials posted in Pakistan.

(d) No. Sir.

Fundamentalist in Kashmir

430. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Member of the US House Foreign Aaffirs Committee has pointed out to the US Government that since 1989, the fundamentalists, under the influence of operatives in Pakistan,